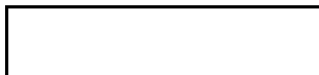


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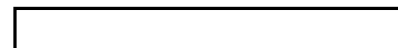
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13 July 1966



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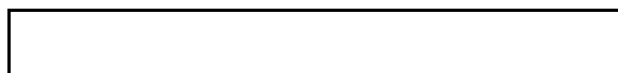
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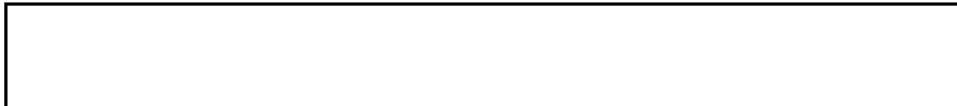
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Iran: [The Shah has approached the Soviets regarding the purchase of antiaircraft guns and surface-to-air missiles.]

[Although the Shah has appeared "shaken" by warnings that such purchases would inevitably complicate Iran's military relations with the US, he has now told Ambassador Meyer that to reject the Soviets before hearing them out would indicate that he is a "US puppet." He insists that, if he purchases Soviet equipment, security precautions would be taken, especially regarding the activities of Soviet technicians. The Soviets, however, apparently have not responded yet to his overtures.]

[At the same time, the Shah is continuing to consider offers from other Western suppliers. Major items he has in mind include a British destroyer and patrol boats--possibly to be equipped with guided missiles--and French Mirage jet fighters. He would purchase the Mirages, which have been touted by the Shah's Israeli contacts, if the US refused to sell him Phantom F-4s on his terms.]

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European Launcher Development Organization (ELDO): The agreement reached last week in Paris at a meeting of ELDO's ministerial council gives the multilateral European effort in the launcher development field a new lease on life.

The decision to revise ELDO's financing through 1971 allows for Britain's continued participation on the basis of a reduced contribution as of January 1967. It also will permit construction of a space vehicle capable of launching communication satellites. France's desire to utilize its French Guiana site to launch ELDO satellites was also satisfied.

ELDO's structure may have emerged strengthened from the decisions taken. Its secretariat's control over contracting and inspection was increased.

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Moreover, the ministers showed interest in establishing a committee to achieve better coordination of ELDO's activities with other European organizations in the space field.

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Pakistan: The resignation of pro-Western Finance Minister Shoaib announced yesterday balances off the removal of pro-Chinese Foreign Minister Bhutto last month. President Ayub has relied heavily on Shoaib--who will leave office in late August--for conducting relations with Western nations. Shoaib's replacement, N. M. Uquaili, is reported to be a competent technician and Western-oriented, but not of the stature of the present finance minister, whose direction of Pakistan's economic programs has been an important factor in their success.

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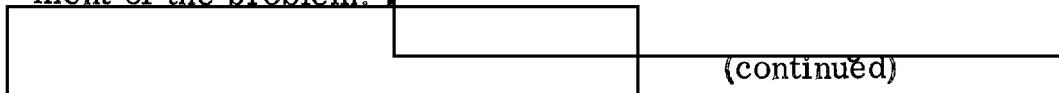
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Sudan: [The unstable coalition government in Khartoum is still hamstrung by serious infighting within the dominant Umma Party. The comparatively liberal president of the party, Sadiq al-Mahdi, has been trying to wrest the premiership from the vain and ineffective Mohammad Mahjoub, but is still apparently reluctant to risk splitting the party. The government's military campaign against dissident Negroid separatists in the southern provinces is still stalemated. The continuing political turmoil in Khartoum has precluded new steps toward a political settlement of the problem.]

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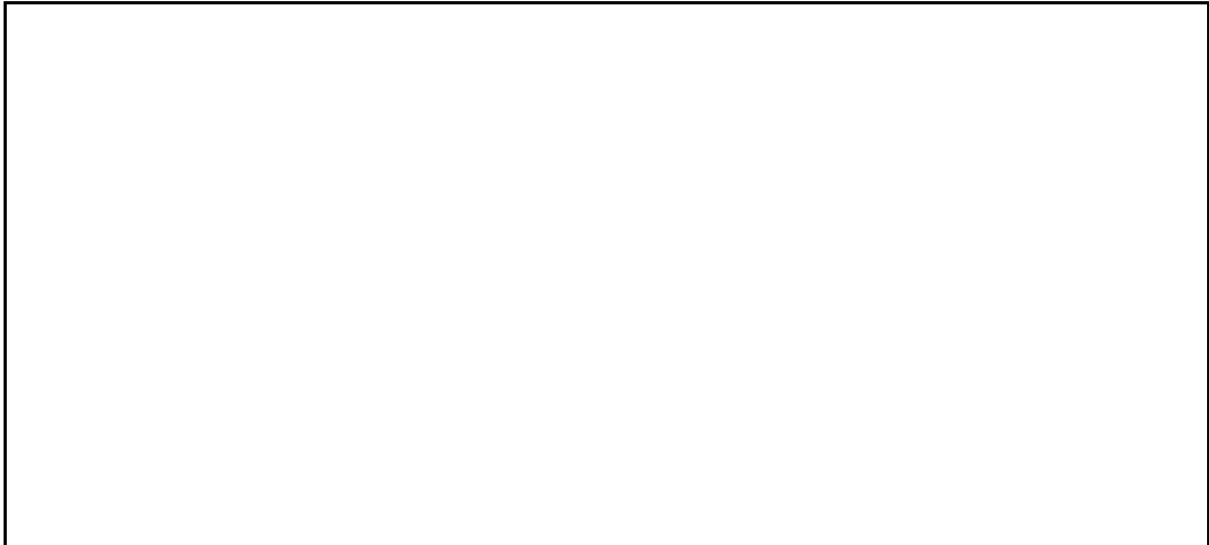
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Ecuador: A general strike in Cotopaxi Province in the highlands is becoming an issue of serious national concern and the "knottiest problem" yet faced by Interim President Yerovi. The strikers are demanding abrogation of a government tax measure and have already disrupted food distribution and transportation to the coastal area. The military is prepared to break the strike, if ordered to do so by the President. Yerovi, however, might instead carry out his earlier threats to resign, which could plunge the country into a protracted period of unrest.

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The Under Secretary of State

The Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs

The Deputy Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs

The Counselor and Chairman of the Policy Planning Council

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